

Tough Times

Vol. 2 No. 1 | Spring 2013

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FEEDING THE FUTURE

Knights Table, Peel region's only soup kitchen that is open every day of the year, needs \$100,000 to continue to feed needy people and to grow as demand grows.

It is holding a gala dinner and silent auction, on Friday, June 7, 2013, at 6p.m., at the Speranza Banquet Hall, 510 Deerhurst Drive, Brampton.

A staff of five and 1,542 volunteers keep Knights Table open. Of the people Knights Table serves, 26% are homeless – living in cars or in the woods, or couch-surfing with friends; 71% do not have a criminal history; 43% have a physical disability; 23% have a mental illness.

Knights Table runs social support programs for families, provides volunteer opportunities for youth, job training, assistance for people fighting addictions.

For tickets or to donate auction items, phone Stephanie or Linda at (905) 454-8725 or email event@knightsable.org.

See advertisement on page 4.***

GALA DINNER,
ENTERTAINMENT,
& SILENT AUCTION

THE TROTS HAVE CALEDON ON THE RUN!

MUSCLE HILL BRED BY WINBAK FARM, PULLS THE SULKY WITH THE STLYE THAT HAS WON 20 OF 21 STARTS. (Photo courtesy of Winbak Farms)

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THE MONEY BREAKDOWN: MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) challenges candidates for council seats in the Town of Caledon, the City of Brampton and the City of Mississauga not to accept election campaign donations from corporations (including developers) or from labour unions.

"Housing is the single most important issue affecting cash-poor people in Peel," reports PPAG, "without such campaign income, councillors could do a better job of encouraging developers to include more social and affordable housing in their plans."

Some members of council do not accept corporate donations. Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion does not take money from corporations or trade unions or individuals. Mississauga Councillor Jim Tovey, elected in 2010, declared in advance he would not take money from developers.

Caledon Mayor Marolyn Morrison told Tough

Times, "I have always made it very clear that I will not take donations from the aggregate industry or from developers. I do not want to feel that I owe anyone and therefore have the opportunity to have a donation influence my votes at the Council table."

Morrison is one of only two mayors in all of Ontario who supports a ban on corporate or union donations.

Campaign donations of up to \$750 are a long-standing practice in Ontario's municipal elections and are not against the law in Peel. However, campaign donations from corporations and trade unions are forbidden in all federal elections, in Quebec's provincial and municipal elections, in Manitoba and Nova Scotia's provincial elections, and in the City of Toronto's municipal elections.

The next municipal elections are scheduled for October 27, 2014. Candidates can register on January 2, 2014, and once registered, can start accumulating campaign donations.

Continued on Page 4

TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL NO. 52 ONTARIO, CANADA

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The Executive Board,
 Officers and Staff of
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 No, 52, Ontario,
 Canada wish to extend
 their support and best
 wishes to the
 Brampton-Mississauga
 & District Labour
 Council on the
 Unveiling of the Injured
 Workers Monument in
 recognition of the
 sacrifices that workers
 have made and the
 need for all possible
 safety measures in the
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THE RICH GET RICHER... ...AND GUESS WHAT?

Tax cuts for corporations have cost Canada \$17 billion in lost revenue – and those who suffer most from the loss are people at the bottom of the income ladder, says Trish Hennessy, director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

At a public meeting sponsored by Peel Poverty Action Group, Hennessy described the widening income gap in Canada, as leading to “more crime, more stress, less hope and to social unrest.”

Hennessy declared that the richest 1% of residents of Vancouver, Montreal, or Toronto, receive 15 times more

money every year than an average Canadian. And the gap is widening. In 1980, the rich received only nine times more than the average.

The answer, Hennessy suggested, is through taxes paying for social services.

“Public services are a great equalizer in our society,” she said, noting a shift in government policy that began in the 1980 when Ronald Reagan was president of the United States. “Reaganomics” promoted



Normal vs. Maverick

Nida Waheed, NDP UTM President, Trish Hennessy, CCPA Director, & Fayaz Karim, Event Coordinator.

CORPORATION TAX CUTS COST CANADA \$17 BILLION

shrinking government services and permitting unregulated markets to dictate livelihood.

“The income gap inequality is a physical, tangible thing,” she said, and compared Toronto’s Regent Park with the affluent Bridle Path, which has more greenery and fewer roads cutting through.

Hennessy indicated a solution: “It is not about just taxing the rich or corporations, although I think it’s a discussion we need to have – it’s about

what we do. I think it’s time we had that conversation.”

PPAG member Fayaz Karim presided, and was lead organizer of the event. ***

NEW MALTON LOCATION FOR PUNJABI HEALTH SERVICES

In January, Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS) officially re-opened at its new Malton location, 2980 Drew Rd, unit 241. The celebrations were joined in by the PCHS’ Board Member, Gurvinder Kaur; PCHS’ Chief Operating Officer, Amandeep Kaur and other staff members and volunteers.

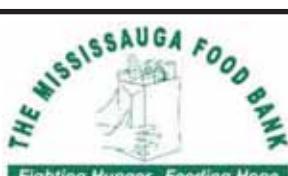
The second part of the opening was a community engagement session that focused on South Asian seniors’ needs and issues. Facilitated by PCHS’ COO, Amandeep Kaur, the seniors from PCHS’ SAHARA Seniors Program prioritized the follow ‘attention areas’ in order: (1) Nursing Homes for South Asian seniors (2)



Extension of Langar on Wheels Program currently being run by PCHS; (3) Exercising equipment for seniors; (4) Healthy/Positive family relationship

building.

For more on PCHS’ seniors programming or other services available, visit www.pchs4u.com. ***



DON'T GO HUNGRY

If you are struggling to make ends meet, have to choose between paying rent or buying food, can't afford formula for your baby, or have more bills than income... The Mississauga Food Bank is here to help you.

Anyone in need and living in Mississauga is eligible to use a neighbourhood food bank or other food program regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race or immigration status.

Visit www.themississaugafoodbank.org/getfood or phone us at 905-270-5589 to find the food program closest to you.



ToughTimes

Tough Times is published quarterly.

**Next issue in Summer, 2013.
Deadline for ads and editorials
is May 17, 2013.**

We encourage and welcome volunteer writers, reporters, artists, cartoonists, photographers, distributors and sales folk to join Tough Times.

Please send your letters to: toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

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Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG)

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Advertising Rates

Tough Times has a minimum press run of 10,000 copies, distributed throughout Peel Region.

Target audience is people experiencing homelessness, using foodbanks and soup kitchens, people who are struggling, plus faith groups, social service agencies, trades unions, business people, and the general public.

To advertise in The Tough Times:

email: toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

Phone: 905 826-5041

Mail address: 287 Glidden Road, #4 Brampton ON L6W 1H9, Canada

Advertising rates: (sales tax extra)

Business card: \$60

1/16 page: \$70

1/8 page: \$100

1/4 page: \$170

1/2 page: \$340

3/4 page: \$480

Full page: \$620

A full page is approximately 10 inches wide by 12 inches deep = 120 square inches.

Colour \$35 extra | E&OE

THE MONEY BREAKDOWN:

2010 MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Continued from Page 1

Excerpts from reports of the 2010 municipal election contributions to council members in Peel. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, but readers may wish to check with the Clerks of the municipalities, and examine municipal websites which are required to post reports of election income and spending by all candidates, including those who did not win. The reports include the names and addresses of donors of \$100 or more. Some candidates do not report corporate/union and individual contributions separately. Some candidates post supplementary reports. *Tough Times* thanks Prof. Robert McDermaid of York University and the website votetoronto.ca for assistance.

MISSISSAUGA					
HAZEL McCALLION, Mayor	JIM TOVEY Ward 1	PAT MULLIN Ward 2	CHRIS FONSECA Ward 3	FRANK DALE Ward 4	BONNIE CROMBIE Ward 5
Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	EVE ADAMS Ward 5
\$ 0	\$7,785 from 16 donors	\$2,700 from 6 donors	\$4,550 from 10 donors	\$24,400 from 40 donors	Resigned on being elected
Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Corporate contributions	MP for Mississauga-Brampton South
\$ 0	\$13,075 from 36 donors	\$200 from 1 donor	\$8,100 from 26 donors	\$30,000 from 52 donors	Total contributions including
Total spent: \$ 0	Total spent: \$30,635	Total spent: \$13,820	Total spent: \$41,980	Total spent: \$56,930	in-kind: \$1,617
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	Total spent: \$68,852
RON STARR Ward 6	NANDO IANNICCA Ward 7	KATIE MAHONEY Ward 8	PAT SAITO Ward 9	SUE McFADDEN Ward 10	GEORGE CARLSON Ward 11
Corporation contributions:	Total contributions: \$53,750	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Contributions:	Corporation contributions:
\$36,550 from 60 donors	from 84 contributors	\$19,075 from 34 donors	\$11,600 from 20 donors	\$17,200	\$21,850 from 39 donors
Individual contributions:	Total spent: \$66,540	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Total spent: \$35,304	Individual contributions:
\$19,500 from 40 donors	*****	\$10,750.00 from 17 donors	\$1,000 from 2 donors	*****	\$5,200 from 11 donors
Total spent: \$56,749		Total spent: \$32,329	Total spent: \$ 28,744		Total spent: \$35,691
*****		*****	*****		*****
BRAMPTON					
SUSAN FENNELL, Mayor	ELAINE MOORE	PAUL PALLESCHI	JOHN SANDERSON	GAEL MILES	JOHN SPROVIERI
Corporation contributions:	Regional Councillor Ward 1 & 5	Regional Councillor Ward 2 & 6	Regional Councillor Ward 3 & 4	Regional Councillor Ward 7 & 8	Regional Councillor Ward 9 & 10
\$108,295 from 170 donors	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:
Individual contributions:	\$25,275 from 44 donors	\$44,300 from 67 donors	\$32,275 from 58 donors	\$18,975 from 32 donors	\$28,650 from 42 donors
\$152,770 from 261 donors	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:
Total Campaign Expenses:	\$5,975.00 from 13 donors	\$15,400.00 from 22 donors	\$9,850 from 19 donors	\$3,600 from 8 donors	\$7,250 from 12 donors
\$260,480	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Election Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:
*****	\$34,743	\$59,616	\$44,842	\$27,936	\$35,817
	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
GRANT GIBSON	JOHN A HUTTON	BOB CALLAHAN	SANDRA HAMES	VICKY DHILLON	
Councillor, Ward 1 & 5	Councillor, Ward 2 & 6	Councillor, Ward 3 & 4	Councillor, Ward 7 & 8	Councillor, Ward 9 & 10	
Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	
\$32,375 from 54 donors	\$16,300 from 26 donors	\$7,825 from 13 donors	\$8,600 from 15 donors	\$35,975 from 57 donors	
Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	
\$6,700 from 11 donors	\$1,450 from 3 donors	\$1,450 from 5 donors	\$3,000 from 5 donors	\$26,200 from 47 donors	
Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	
\$42,355	\$18,568	\$13,851	\$14,440	\$65,646	
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	
CALEDON					
MAROLYN MORRISON	RICHARD PATERAK	DOUG BEFFORT	ALLAN THOMPSON	GORDON McCLURE	
Mayor	Regional Councillor, Ward 1	Area Councillor, Ward 1	Regional Councillor, Ward 2	Area Councillor, Ward 2	
Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:	
\$25,275 from 58 donors	\$1,800 from 7 donors	\$2,186 from 5 donors	\$8,950 from 15 donors	\$4,800 from 7 donors	
Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:	
\$16,500 from 74 donors	\$4,175.00 from 17 donors	\$1,200 from 3 donors	\$2,950 from 7 donors	\$950 from 2 donors	
Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:	
\$45,126	\$7,116	\$7,371	\$12,189	\$9,235	
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	
RICHARD WHITEHEAD	NICK de BOER	PATTI FOLEY	ROB MEZZAPELLI		
Regional Councillor, Wards 3 & 4	Area Councillor, Wards 3 & 4	Regional Councillor, Ward 5	Area Councillor, Ward 5		
Corporation contributions:	Corporate and Individual contributions:	Corporation contributions:	Corporation contributions:		
\$7,800 from 14 donors	\$2,200 from 7 donors	\$325 from 4 donors	\$1,845 from 5 donors		
Individual contributions:	Total Campaign Expenses:	Individual contributions:	Individual contributions:		
\$8,750 from 12 donors	\$5,436	\$3,555 from 13 donors	\$1,450 from 7 donors		
Total Campaign Expenses: \$18,803	*****	Total Campaign Expenses:	Total Campaign Expenses:		
*****		\$13,049	\$4,982	*****	

KNIGHT'S TABLE gala dinner & silent auction

Friday, June 7, 2013 | 6pm | Speranza Banquet Hall, 510 Deerhurst Drive, Brampton
 (905) 454-8725 | event@knightsable.org

THE TROTS HAVE CALEDON ON THE RUN

Continued from Page 1

Standardbred racing, where horses pull sulkies around a racetrack and the first four past the post get prize money, is losing out to the government. And it is riding roughshod over the Town of Caledon.

Queen's Park is changing the rules and taking slot machine money away from trotting racing. This is leaving horse owners, trade unions, and other horse trade workers up in arms. Without the subsidies that the slots provide, jobs – and prize money -- will be lost. And further ill-effects will rattle down the trotting chain.

"Investment in trotting has already diminished," says Larry Drysdale, who has spent nearly 35 years in the business and is currently the manager of Winbak Farms in Caledon. A mare takes 11 months to produce a foal, and at Winbak's Caledon operation breeding has slowed from the average 800 services a year to "we'll be lucky to get 400." That means fewer standardbred horses for trotting racing just a few years down the line. 80% of horse racing in Ontario is The Trots.

"From 30,000 to 60,000 jobs could be lost in Ontario," Drysdale says, "not just by people who work among horses, but the producers and suppliers of hay, straw, and feed, the truckers who deliver the stuff, vets, harness makers. We are on life support."

Town of Caledon Council endorsed a paper that Wellington County is presenting to the Ontario government that declares: "Termination of the Slots at Racetracks program will have a devastating effect on the industry." Caledon's horses -- not all of them trotters -- are a \$45m-a-year business. It is rare for millionaires, trade unions, and non-unionized workers from grooms to trainers to people who muck out the stables to be on the same side financially, but threats to The Trots have them working together.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) is whipped up about The Trots. Sharon DeSousa, PSAC's Executive Vice-President for Ontario, describes the history: "In late 1990s the provincial government wanted more income without raising taxes,

LOCAL JOBS IN JEOPARDY

so Ontario Lottery and Gaming slot machines were placed rent-free in horse racing tracks across the province. Racing got 20% of gross revenues (about \$345m a year) of which 10% went into breeding, ownership, bigger purses, and 10% to the track operators. Host municipalities got 5% of total revenues, and the government got the remaining 75%, which was \$1.1 billion a year, every year. In 2012, the government gave one year's notice that the Slots at Racetracks Program would end on March 31 this year."

"Racetracks can't maintain their current staffing levels if the government replaces the Slots at Racetracks Program with lease agreements, as has been agreed to at 10 of the province's 17 tracks," said DeSousa.

The Fort Erie Racetrack has closed. DeSousa noted 109 layoffs at Woodbine and Mohawk. PSAC represents nearly 400 slots workers at Woodbine and expects downsizing.

The government-appointed Horse Racing Industry Transition Panel was told "These jobs generally involve long hours and low pay, and require little formal education. But people employed in the horse racing industry love their work. Skills that make employees valuable in the backstretch, breeding barns and training stables are not transferable outside the equine sector."

All is not lost on the horses in Caledon. Caledon Equestrian Park is to be improved and refurbished as a venue for the 2015 Pan Am Games.

The federal government is investing \$6.8 million in changes which will include a new stadium, a new grand prix arena, and new indoor and outdoor training facilities. An additional \$9.3 million will be spent on wages and salaries at the park during the Pan Am Games and \$8.1 million a year thereafter. This will create 160 jobs during the games, and 175 jobs annually after. When the games are over, the park will host more events, a hotel will be built, and equestrian economic activity will almost double.

*** See Horse Tales on Page 12

RAISING MONEY TO BUILD A KITCHEN

EDEN COMMUNITY FOOD BANK IS \$50,000 AWAY FROM DREAM KITCHEN

To help people in need in Mississauga-West, the Eden Community Food Bank (ECFB) plans to open a commercial-grade kitchen this year. ECFB is asking the community to help raise the remaining \$50,000 it needs to complete the kitchen that will serve 400-500 families monthly.

Currently, ECFB also has an advocacy program that ensures clients have access to information on a variety of community services. With the kitchen, two programs will begin: (1) Classes teaching how to cook healthy and nutritious meals with the food commonly available at the food bank; (2) Training courses to help unemployed individuals find work in the food industry.

According to the annual

Nutritious Food Basket Survey, the average weekly cost of basic healthy eating for a family of four in Peel has increased by 10.6% between 2009 and 2011. As identified in the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy 2012-2015, many families living in poverty have to choose between food and other necessities such as rent. Also, the 2011 Hunger Inquiry reports that "17% of the population of Mississauga potentially qualifies to use food banks".

To help build the kitchen, ECFB welcomes corporate donations, employee fundraisers, foundation grants, and individual donations. For more information, contact the ECFB's Kitchen Project Manager, at peter.costello@edenfoodbank.org or (416) 899-1339. ***

GETTING A MOVE ON

Peel's Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee will soon be posing this question to stores all over the region: "Would grocery stores in Peel provide free or cheap pick up and drop-off for cash-poor people?"

It is part of a three-year strategy to reduce poverty: more housing, more money, more jobs, more food, and better transportation. Transportation is top of the poverty strategy list because municipal and provincial governments are already talking about it.

"There is a concern that transit remains unaffordable for a large percentage of residents who are forced to sacrifice other basic necessities in order to get around," says the committee.

"Cash-poor people should get transit passes because transportation is the means for getting basic needs: food, clothing, and medical services, and these necessities are not being met because fares are too expensive."

By 2015, the Poverty Reduction Strategy hopes to see affordable public transit in Mississauga and Brampton.

Currently, cash fare in Brampton is \$3.50 from April 1, \$3.25 in

Mississauga, and only \$3 on the TTC. Brampton seniors with Brampton Transit Senior Identification card can travel in Brampton for \$1.

On the buses, Brampton issues PRESTO cards with fares at \$2.45 for students, \$2.65 for adults and \$1.50 for seniors. Mississauga PRESTO fares are \$2.25 for students, \$2.70 for adults and \$1.80 for seniors. PRESTO cards must be pre-loaded and can be used on various transit services including Mississauga, Burlington, GO, Durham Region, and parts of the TTC.

Caledon has no public transit, but Caledon Community Services (CCS) provides door-to-door accessible transportation seven days a week for Caledon seniors (60+) and people with disabilities who cannot drive themselves. Fees are \$4 each way anywhere in Caledon except Malls, which are \$5; shopping in Orangeville costs \$5 each way; Etobicoke or Brampton fares are \$10; Mississauga for a medical appointment is \$20, and medical trips further afield are \$30. Check with CCS at (905) 584-2300.

To share your transit ideas with the committee, phone (905) 791-7800 ext. 4015. ***



Is Our Government On Our Side?



The Brampton-Mississauga & District Labour Council invites you to honour the memory of those lost or injured on the job.

We dedicate ourselves to workplace safety.

April 28 2013 | 11am

www.bmdlc.org
SMALL DONATIONS WELCOME

INJURED WORKERS MONUMENT SOUVENIR

Tough Times

Brampton-Mississauga & District Labour Council invites you to:

The Unveiling of the Injured Workers Monument



JIM STOBBE
OWEN SOUND LEDGEROCK
Donated all the granite for the Monument

SALLY LAWRENCE & ROB MOIR
INJURED WORKERS MONUMENT ARTISTS

MOTILLAL SARJOO
BRAMPTON-MISSISSAUGA & DISTRICT
LABOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Milestones of Labour

28 April 2013 | 11am

Flower City Community Campus
8870 McLaughlin Road
Brampton, ON

Since 2000, over
11,000 Canadians
have died because
their employer failed
to keep their workplace safe!

Meanwhile... not one employer
has gone to jail. Is that fair?



It's time to enforce the law.

Kill a worker,
go to jail.



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING
JOUR NATIONAL DE DEUIL
April 28, 2013

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Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du travail du Canada

Unveiling the Injured Workers Monument

WSIB REPORTS 238,373 WORKPLACE INJURIES IN 2012

On Canada's National Day of Mourning, April 28, 2013, the Brampton-Mississauga & District Labour Council (BMDLC) will unveil a monument honouring workers killed or injured in the workplace. Built on the west side of McLaughlin Road, just south of Queen Street in Brampton, the monument melds together both science and art.

"The cycles of nature are celebrated both in the sculptures that sit on the four cardinal directions and by the sun that will draw a sign of infinity on a flagstone floor," comments monument artists Sally Lawrence and Rob Moir.

"If the sun were observed and recorded each day at 'true noon' for a year, the resulting movement across the sky would be a figure eight, or Analemma, or the sign of infinity, which will be marked on the ground with geode crystals," BMDLC says.

Artistically, the monument is a sculpture of three life-size nickel-silver figures of different ages, genders, and ethnic backgrounds climbing the curve of a dome. "The concept has evolved over the past 13 years into a 75 x 45 foot, three-fold labyrinth and solar sculpture," comments Lawrence and Moir. "The monument commemorates union accomplishments while promoting health and safety in the workplace."

Celebrating workplace safety, a quote by J.S. Woodsworth and one by Jack Layton will be carved into the polished granite walls of the labyrinth. The first leader of the Canadian Commonwealth Federation and forerunner of the NDP, J. S. Woodsworth said, "What we desire for ourselves we wish for all. To this end may we take our share in the world's work and the world's struggles."

Alongside Woodsworth quote will be one from the eight-year leader of Canada's New Democratic Party, Jack Layton, "Love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear.

Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."

According to Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) 2012 statistics, 389 fatalities occurred. Of these, 80 Ontarians were killed on the job, 273 Ontarians died from occupational diseases,

Canada, the Day of Mourning is now commemorated in more than 70 countries worldwide.

"It is our intention to create a place for quiet reflection," explains Lawrence and Moir, "where science, art, and social consciousness come together to inspire global thinking and local action."



Artist Sally Lawrence welds sculptures in the Injured Workers Monument with a copper alloy called nickel silver, using an oxy-acetylene torch. She wears a respirator because the welding exhausts from the flux used with copper alloys are toxic.
Safety in the workplace (Photo courtesy of the artists)

and 36 Ontarians died from work-related disabilities after years of suffering. Total injuries reported to the WSIB for last year: 238,373.

To commemorate workers injured on the job, killed, disabled, or suffered from occupational illnesses, the Workers Mourning Day Act that was passed on December 28, 1990. It officially established April 28 as the Day of Mourning, because that was when the first comprehensive Workers' Compensation Act was passed. Although beginning in

To be marked at the Monument:
May 1: International Workers Day – Is a national holiday in more than 80 countries and celebrated unofficially in many others. On 1973 in Montreal, Quebec, the first contemporary demonstration was organized by the major trade union confederations. Over 30,000 trade unionists took part in this demonstration.

June 1: Injured Workers Day – Established in 1983, following a rally

at Queen's Park in opposition to a government plan to eliminate the permanent disability pension. The Canadian Labour Congress says, "27 years later, the current workers' compensation system is in decline. Workers' compensation boards are continuously bowing to corporate pressure to make changes that are not beneficial to workers while many workers are not reporting injuries."

First Monday in September: Labour Day – In 1894, Prime Minister John Sparrow David Thompson declared the first Monday in September as Canada's official Labour Day.

October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – The Peel Poverty Action Group (producers of Tough Times) declared, "Poverty is not being rooted out. The Ontario government is ignoring the Social Assistance Review that recommended an immediate increase in social supports. High rents are a cause of poverty in Peel, but nothing is being done about it. Federally, no poverty plan is in place and official poverty measurement tools do not exist."***

Donations to support the monument are invited

**BMDLC
Monument Fund**
989 Derry Road East, Unit 403
Mississauga ON L5T 2J8
905 696-7444

AUSTERITY IS HURTING
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but...

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has a new online tool
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Contact the Ontario Common Front for support:
info@WeAreOntario.ca



Jagmeet Singh

MPP, Bramalea – Gore – Malton



Injured Workers Monument

It is a great honour for the City of Brampton to have a monument dedicated to those who were killed or injured in the workplace. This monument will serve as a meeting place for the Day of Mourning ceremonies, honouring these victims.

Come visit our community office!

As your Member of Provincial Parliament, my constituency assistants and I are able to help you in a variety of ways:

- Bringing your concerns to the legislature and advocating on issues that are important to you.
- Helping you navigate any Ontario public services including OHIP, OSAP, and ODSP
- Assisting your access to health programs such as Trillium Drug or the Assistive Device Program
- Providing Commissioner of Oath services for government documents
- Providing congratulatory scrolls for your special occasions such as Birthday and anniversary celebrations

I am here working for you, and together we can make change that puts people first.

Sandra Hames
Regional Councillor
Wards 7 & 8

2 Wellington Street West, Brampton, ON L6Y 4R2
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Ward 5

The Mayor and Members of Council of the City of Mississauga recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by workers in the City of Mississauga and Region of Peel

We are proud to support this monument that honours those killed or injured on the job



Fight for the Living Remember the Dead



We are proud to have had the opportunity to work with the Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council to make this 'Milestones of Labour' monument project a reality.

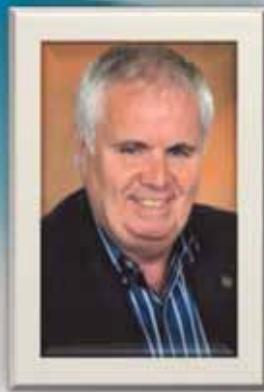
From this day forward this monument will serve to honour the memory of all those killed or injured in the workplace.



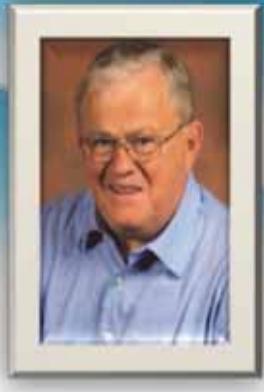
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Regional Councillor Wards 1 & 5



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Regional Councillor Wards 3 & 4



Bob Callahan
City Councillor Wards 3 & 4



WHAT UNIONS HAVE WON FOR ALL OF US

BY MOTILALL SARJOO, CAW LOCAL 1285, LABOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Labour unions began in Canada in the early 1800s, and became legal in 1872, following a strike by printers in Toronto to win a nine-hour day. Ten years later, a national labour organization was formed which is now the Canadian Labour Congress. Another 20 years, and workers wanted an eight-hour day, better wages, and the right to belong to a union. Canada's most famous strike took place in Winnipeg in 1919, when 30,000 workers closed down the city. One man was killed, several jailed, but it was another 30 years before workers were granted union recognition and collective bargaining.

In the 1930s and 1940s, workplaces remained dangerous, overcrowded, unhealthy, and workers poorly paid. Unions began to grow. Workers obtained some security, better working conditions, wages and benefits. To this day unionized jobs pay better and have more benefits. Workers enjoy a better quality of life and their kids have a

better chance of a sound education. Then, workers had to fight for a better deal, while today we take these gains for granted.

But we could lose them. Corporate domination of our governments could destroy good labour legislation. Two scary proposals must not be allowed to take hold in this country or in Ontario, (1) Making Ontario a right-to-work province; and (2) Taking away the Rand Formula -- Canada-wide.

Of the so-called right-to-work: It sounds great. But what it means is that you need not pay union dues. This weakens the union and in the 24 states of the U.S. where "right-to-work" (RTW) practices have been adopted, wages have been lowered, benefits weakened, the poverty rate has gone up, workplace deaths and injuries have increased. Workers in the RTW states are paid on average \$5,680 LESS a year than workers elsewhere.

In states without RTW legislation,

working families benefit from a healthier tax base that can provide for education, health care, and social programs.

In Canada, budget deficits at provincial and federal level are huge because of low taxes on corporations and fewer individuals in jobs. Services are cut, and social programs like health care, education and old age pensions are underfunded.

But RTW is not the way to go. Sid Ryan, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, declares that RTW means "cheap" workers, shuffling from one part-time low wage precarious job to another, competing with each other. "This type of flexible workforce will bring poverty, not prosperity," Ryan says. "The right to work for less is closer to the truth."

On the Rand Formula: In 1945-6, Supreme Court Justice Ivan Rand negotiated an end to a 99-day strike at Ford Windsor. The UAW (now

CAW) local wanted union security – all workers to be union members, and all who got the benefits to pay union dues. This is now a bedrock principle of unions across Canada, and many in the labour movement consider it essential to the survival of unions.

Thanks to the financial stability that came with the Rand Formula, more workplaces became unionized. Workers made good wages and were able to send their kids to university and college. The government received enough in taxes to pay for social programs -- until the late 1970s and early 80s, when Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Regan, and Canada's Brian Mulroney, designed policies to attack workers, lower wages, reduce benefits and gut unions.

With globalization, corporations could shift production abroad. Corporate profits soared. Workers saw wages eroded, plants closed, jobs outsourced and living standards drop.

It is time to turn the tide. We must stand together with our fellow workers, families, friends and neighbours -- and demand a better society for ourselves and our children. All of us must be prepared to take a leadership role. Changes are not easy to make. Our fight is for social justice. ***

OVER \$500,000 SECURED FOR PEEL CHILDREN

Peel Children and Youth Initiative (PCYI) has hosted six events that have registered children in the Canada Learning Bond (CLB) and secured up to \$524,000 towards education for children in Peel. The events are a one-stop-shop for parents, where they can register their child for the CLB and for a social insurance number (SIN) at the same time.

The CLB helps children born after 2004 save for their postsecondary education. The bond is a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) that secures up to \$2,000 and grows interest over time. Although no parental contribution is required, the federal government will match any contributions by 40 per cent. Families with

STRIKING IT RICH WITH CANADA LEARNING BOND

a net household income of \$42,707 or less after taxes are eligible to apply.

For more information about PCYI or the CLB visit www.pcyi.org or speak with an information and referral specialist at 1-888-836-5550. ***



HORSE TALES

Lucky horseshoes are needed in the trotting business in Ontario right now, with the Ontario government permitting slot machines away from racetracks, which horse racers declare will ruin their business.

But David Lillies, whose career in horseracing includes being a horse owner, says that in the 50 years he has been in the trotting business it has always been a tough career.

Lillies got into the business through a friend, Ben Larocque, in Carman, Manitoba, a small agricultural town (current pop. 3,027) about 40 minutes from Winnipeg. "Ben had a few horses and wanted somebody to clean up the sh*t," Lillies reports. "Ontario was the place to be. They had a lot of tracks back then. We bought a standardbred, Gordon Littell. He was a wild horse, but Ben could handle horses, and it turned into a pretty good horse and won some races."

According to records kept in the Mississauga offices of Standardbred, the official registry of all things trotting, Gordon Littell ran 32 races in 1966, winning five, placing second in three, and third in two. It was the gelding's best year,

with \$1750 in winnings.

Lillies' pay, which started at \$15 a week, went up. "I got \$50 a week as a groom, plus free room and board on the tracks," and he mentions St. Catharines which closed down years ago, Mohawk (still open), Greenwood, now closed but the name given to the old Woodbine track at Queen and Woodbine, when the new Woodbine was built on 788 acres on Rexdale Boulevard, opened in 1956.

Even in the good old days, standardbred racing was not always rewarding. "There are eight horses in a race, but they only pay the first four. Nobody else gets anything," Lillies said.

Finally, he and Larocque went to London Raceway and "lost the horse in a cheap claiming race."

But that was not the end of Lillies' horse career.

He continued working with horses for 10 years, and went to racetracks all over North America, "It was lots of fun. They had lots of tracks back then." Having been through a rollercoaster of a trotting career, Lillies is now a regular at the Knights Table. ***



WORDS FROM THE STREET

OW, OH DEAR

I have worked on and off for five years. I sometimes got 40 hours a week as a forklift operator, but if I earned too much, I was better off to go on OW.

DREAMER

What's my dream meal? T-bone steak, with onions, mushrooms, mashed potatoes, gravy. Topped off with raisin pie.

LADY MISSING THE SUNSHINE

I came to Canada from Trinidad 20 years ago, and still miss the sunshine. My son is two years old. I shall go back to warehouse work when he starts school. I like Knights Table because I get a meal and socialize while I wait for my box from the food bank.

FINDING WORK, SETTLING IN

Our family came to Canada from Afghanistan six months ago. My husband is sick, but my son and older daughter have jobs, and my two younger daughters are in school.

ABOUT THE 2013 BUDGET

More people are coming to the food banks all the time. It's difficult to find a job. Demand for food is growing, more children are coming, and more pregnant women with young children. We don't use the soup kitchen every day, but it needs to be there. The government should put more money into soup kitchens. It will make more jobs for people. *Lorna, dining at Knights Table*

UNKIND CUT

The police took my knife away. In the past they gave it back. But some young rookie took it. I need it to cut cardboard to line my shoes.

BASIC

Canada is safe with supports for newcomers. The Newcomer Centre of Peel has helped us.

Couple from Egypt, eating at St. Mina and St. Kyrellos Coptic Church, Mississauga.

EATING UP THE MILES...

Mississauga Food Bank hopes runners will raise \$20,000 to provide 60,000 meals for clients of

the city's food banks through the Mississauga Marathon, set for Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, 2013. Find out more by phoning 905 270-5589.

LOOKING BACK

Old-timer visiting St. Mina for its Tuesday soup kitchen, remembered volunteering at Knights Table, when it was on Main Street, Brampton, about 2001. "Somedays they served 20 to 30 people. But some days 100 would come in."

WORKPLACE ACCIDENT

In 2006, my forklift was T-boned and I had broken vertebrae. They wanted me to take classes to train for some other work, but I could not attend. They cut me off. I had no money for rent. I had to go in a shelter, which is as bad as it gets. I've appealed to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. They owe me.

IT WAS TWO WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS....

when mom and her three boys, ages 11, six, and four, were evicted from their three-bedroom apartment in Toronto. Mom says a Special Diet Allowance was stopped in April, 2012. She could not pay full rent and eventually had to move out, to spend Christmas in a one-bedroom basement. Days later, the diet allowance was reinstated. Now she lives in Brampton where rents are cheaper. She's studying at York University, will graduate in 2015, and plans to work with the aboriginal community. Why aboriginal? Her mom is from Attawapiskat.

WHAT YOU GET FOR \$450 RENT

He says call him Mike, which is not his real name. His income is from Ontario Works, and he lives in a Brampton rooming house. Lowest rent on the Region of Peel's list of low rent places is \$450 a month. Eight guys live in the same place as Mike, sharing a microwave, but not the kitchen because that's where one of the eight sleeps and there's no stove anyway. The laundry room is unlocked every two weeks. Water at 8.30 a.m. is about 15 degrees. Doors are carpet hung over the doorway. That's what Mike says. That's where he lives. ***

The CUPE 966 crowd at the International Women's Day breakfast. From left, Mary Jo Falle, president of local 966; Gogi Bhandal, regional representative for the Canadian Labour Congress; Edna Toth, editor of Tough Times; Stefanie Pereira with her mom Mary, who is a union steward in CUPE 966 TransHelp unit.



PHOTO BY TOUGH TIMES



Rob Wight, Glenda and Jo-Anne Brown feeding the hungry at the Coldest Night of the Year event, 23 February, 2013, at ReGeneration, in Grace United Church, Brampton raised \$31,525. We officially had 156 walkers. We had over 45 volunteers.

PHOTO BY RANDY JOHNSON



Participants take a break after the Coldest Night Walk. Brampton raised \$31,525. We officially had 156 walkers. We had over 45 volunteers. From left, Isaac Sellito next to his dad, Youth Pastor Rob Sellito of Heart Lake Baptist Church, Brittini Lewis, Jennifer McKnight, and Brandon.

PHOTO BY RANDY JOHNSON

DIXIE BLOOR CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

This year on June 15, Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre (DBNC) celebrates 25 years of service to the community with activities for all ages. Past and present staff, volunteers, board members and local residents are invited. Mayor Hazel McCallion will bring greetings.

In 1988, DBNC operated from a small upstairs room in a local church. A free Family Resource Centre offered activities for families with children up to six, plus a toy lending library. Activities were added for seniors and newcomers to Canada, and

now more than 20 programs are available.

In 2011, a new complex was opened combining Burnhamthorpe Library, Maja Prentice Theatre and the Neighbourhood Centre. Easily available services include information, referrals, translation and commissioning of immigration and employment-related documents, assistance in filling out government forms, employment services to find a job, English classes, youth programs and summer camps.

A list of programs, services, awards and opportunities can be found at www.dixiebloor.ca. ***

DID YOU KNOW?

PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Peel Poverty Action Group is open to every individual and organization in Peel Region that cares about what poverty does to people.

It provides a safe place where people who are cash-poor and those who try to help them are encouraged to speak out -- and The Tough Times is part of that safe place.

The Group's mandate is to advocate for people in need and to educate the public about poverty issues. Membership is free. Meetings take place at 9.15 a.m. the second Wednesday of every month, alternately in Mississauga or Brampton.

Website: ppag.wordpress.com

HOMELESS: THE VIDEO

Spaces and Places: Uncovering Homelessness in the Region of Peel is a 15-minute DVD in which homeless people describe their experiences.

A team from Peel Poverty Action Group including a once-homeless person, will show the video to a group on request. There is no charge.

Email ppagactiongroup@gmail.com to book a showing. Allow about 45 minutes for the video and discussion.

The video was made by a team from York University, in cooperation with the Social Planning Council of Peel, financed by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Download: <http://ppag.wordpress.com/spaces-and-places-video/>

MALTON MOVES FORWARD 'MNS CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH'

Malton Neighbourhood Services (MNS) hosted its annual Free Black History Month event at the Malton Community Centre. In partnership with the City of Mississauga, the evening began with a wide range of local and professional talents, followed by a dynamic keynote speaker KiKe Ojo, ending with an interactive Caribbean dance Socacize™ session.

"Malton is such a vibrant diverse community," says Joyce Temple-Smith, MNS Executive Director. "It's



great that we get a chance to see some of the creative and talented people who either live here or started out here." The evening included traditional African drumming, dances, songs, literature, art work, and spoken word pieces.

Ojo unpacked the idea of moving forwards and what that meant for the black community. Ojo is the Diversity and Anti-Oppression Senior Manager of Children's Aid Society

Peel, a Lincoln Alexander Community Award recipient for extraordinary leadership in the elimination of racial discrimination in Ontario in 2000, and a former executive member of the Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation and chair of its Human Rights Committee.



"The theme of Moving Forwards is one that examines and integrates the past in order to build our future," says Jacquie Lewis, MNS Settlement Manager, and Black History Month committee member

To find out more about MNS and the Black History Month event, visit www.mnsinfo.org.

MNS is a non-profit, charitable organization that has provided settlement and community support services since 1975.

*Photos courtesy of Debbie Brown.****

EAT OUT OR EAT AT HOME

MISSISSAUGA'S COPTIC COMMUNITY PUTS FOOD ON YOUR TABLE

St. Mina and St. Kyrillos Coptic Church in Mississauga host a catering service and run a soup kitchen, one day a week. Every Tuesday, volunteers cook and they deliver free meals to 50 families. As well they serve to 85 meals between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the church on Dundas Street East.

The volunteers are from Peel's Coptic community, like Majdi Tourani. Finding time out of his busy schedule of running his own construction company, Tourani still manages to cook every Tuesday. Nader Marcos is in engineering, and his son Ramy who is in construction and engineering, also volunteers.

Meals are not the only service provided. Food bank



Packing more than 120 meals is highly organized volunteer labour at the Coptic Church's soup kitchen and meal delivery service. At work are (from left) Majdi Tourani, Nader Marcos, and Samira Sharobim.

Fruit salad is among the goodies served from St. Mina and St. Kyrillos Coptic Church, to please the palates of people eating at the church or in their own homes. (from left) Ramy Marcos, Samia Ibrahim, and Samira Sharobim pack containers.



supplies are sent out with meals, and at St. Mina, a food bank is open Mondays and Tuesdays (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.), and Wednesdays (11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.), serving 220 families. St. Mina is thus home to Mississauga's largest community kitchen and home delivery food bank service.

The supplies for these feasts (rice, pasta, meat, sauces, and desserts) come primarily from the Mississauga Food Bank. ***



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LINDA JEFFREY MPP BRAMPTON-SPRINGDALE



Let us remember those who have given their lives at work. Too many workers every year in Ontario lose their lives while others have their lives changed due to a major injury.

I am proud to support this monument that honours those killed or injured on the job.

I would like to thank Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council, the City of Brampton, the artists and those who have contributed to create this tribute.

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Together we can make a difference



The City of Brampton congratulates Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council on the unveiling of the "**Milestone of Labour**" monument. We are privileged to have been part of this initiative to honour the memory of our fellow citizens who have been tragically killed while at work.

The "**Milestone of Labour**" serves as a reminder that accidents are preventable. It stands tall to strengthen our resolve, reaffirm our commitment to safety and making our workplace safer and healthier.

In honouring the unveiling of this monument, let us together pledge to make our workplace a safe and healthy place to be.



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